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"Rent," 8; "Wages," 6; "Labor Problems," 25; "Interest," 7; "Profits," 14; "Public Finance and Taxation," 20; "Some Programs of Social Reform," 10.

While the topical headings are mainly those of a theoretical treatise, much helpful material is given on all the leading problems of practical economics—immigration, railroads, trusts, money, rising prices, banking, tariff, wages, trade unions, insurance, taxation, and socialism.

The book is well printed in clear type on good paper, and substantially bound. The volume would be more useful still if it had an index, which even the carefully arranged and full table of contents does not make dispensable. Perhaps, too, most readers would appreciate brief biographical notes after the names of authors of selections, stating, at least, their professional or business positions.

This volume is so valuable, both in what it contains and in what it suggests, to all teachers and students of economics, that their sincere gratitude is due to this trio of indefatigable and discriminating editors, who, after years of practical classroom testing, revising, rejecting, and selecting anew, have in this volume so acceptably arranged this wealth of illustrative economic material approved by their combined experienced judgments. They have made a very real contribution toward a more scientific, inductive study of economics wherever their volume may go.

WALTER E. CLARK

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Statistics. By the late SIR ROBERT GIFFEN. Written about the years 1898–1900. Edited with an introduction by HENRY HIGGS, assisted by GEORGE UDNY YULE. London: Macmillan, 1913. 8vo, pp. xiii+485. \$3.00.

Giffen's *Statistics* is a handbook treating in popular fashion the various classes of statistics, such as area and population, imports and exports, agricultural statistics, insurance and accident, as separate topics. The work is non-mathematical and non-technical; it does not deal with such topics as correlation and variation which have been so largely developed during the past fifteen years; the data are mainly from the United Kingdom. The chief virtue of the book, and one most worthy of note, is the clearness with which the author points out the pitfalls of statistics. As the editor, Henry Higgs, says in the preface: "The thoroughness with which he interrogates his figures and all they stood for is well

revealed in the following pages, and the acuteness of his reflections, if not so easily emulated, is informing, stimulating, and suggestive."

In the introductory chapter Giffen states it to be his purpose:

to deal with statistics as more or less popularly understood, without aiming at any exact definition, so as to make the study appear the more logical and scientific; . . . to describe the various objects for which the various branches of statistics are intended; . . . to give a description of the data in each branch of statistics and how they are obtained; and also an account of the methods of computation and the pitfalls attending the compiler and the student; . . . and to give an account, by way of illustration, of some of the principal facts established in each branch of statistics, and of the principal controversies and questions which statistics have been in fact employed to discuss.

The reviewer agrees with the author when the latter, in considering what topics are or are not to be included in a census, concludes in favor of the limited questionnaire of the United Kingdom as opposed to the extended one of the United States. "The main object of a census," says Giffen, "should be to establish the numbers, sex, age, conjugal condition, and place of birth of the people. . . . If other objects are to be investigated, I should be disposed to recommend that there should be a census for that special purpose" (p. 24). In regard to the census of manufactures of the United States, the author may well be dubious concerning the accuracy of such items as "capitalization" and "profits" (p. 178).

It is interesting to note that Giffen holds that the deductions of Malthus may be "in the long run the more important to study" as "we must not assume that the special experience of the last few generations will be indefinitely continued" (p. 42).

It would be well if our mercantilistic journalists could be made to absorb the ideas presented in the chapter on "Imports and Exports" and especially the idea that "we have countries at the present time like India and the South American countries, the United States, Australasia, and others, which are beyond question in the position of being permanently indebted. In such cases the absence of an excess of exports would rather require to be remarked upon than otherwise, as showing that for the moment the countries in question were not paying the interest which they owed, but were really borrowing again" (p. 94).

The author holds that "to a careful student there is no better barometer of the oscillations in business" than railway traffic (p. 204). However, he does not tell whether the traffic peak precedes, follows, or

coincides with the maximum business activity. As a matter of fact, maximum traffic is reached several months after business begins to decline and hence cannot be used as a barometer in forecasting conditions (see *New York Annalist*, January 5, 1914). Bank clearings are held by him to be good indices of business, their main defect being that clearings do not include checks on the bank in which they are deposited.

The barest outlines of the subject of index numbers are given. It was undoubtedly a slip of the proofreader that makes the author say that the ratio of silver to gold "has become more nearly 10 to 1" (p. 320). However, the incorrect statement that "the check circulation is capable of indefinite increase at any moment" (p. 316) must be ascribed to the author.

WARREN M. PERSONS

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My Life. By AUGUST BEBEL. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1913. 8vo, pp. 343. \$2.00 net.

August Bebel died in the month of August, 1913. Two years before his death he had finished the second volume of his autobiography, *Aus meinem Leben*. In the preface to this he promised a third volume if fate gave him life and the necessary strength. So far, however, there has been no indication of his having found time to picture the *Heroenzeit* of his party before he was called by death from the leadership of the Socialist party of Germany.

Aus meinem Leben is an account of Bebel's life up to the year 1878, to the time of the *Sozialisten Gesetz*. The first volume gives a striking picture of his youth, his *Wanderjahre*, his interest in the working-man's movement, his connection with Lassalle and Liebknecht. The catastrophe of 1866 is vividly depicted, and Bebel's personal interest and labor in behalf of the trades-union movement is shown. In the second volume Bebel presents a mass of material relating to the von Schweitzer period; strikingly relates his ideas about the Franco-Prussian War; and describes his incarceration in the fortress, his life as a prisoner, his studies, and, in conclusion, his election to the Reichstag. Through both the volumes we find the man Bebel on every page. His personality permeates every event. We feel the love of the youth for his parents, and the fierceness of the agitator; we see the idealist, with his belief in the cause, and the tremendous worker for his fellow-Socialists. It is Bebel, the man, who is writing, just as he was talking to the masses.

The English edition called *My Life* is an altered version of the German